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Flora M'Flimsy type. Dresses made up for ladies in the early dawn of womanhood do very well for their grandchildren arrived at a suitable age; and, if this be not a recommendation, let us hope that the fact that some English manufacturers have given the opinion that the silk from the *Cynthia* may be made into shawls equal to the best *India*, may somewhat reconcile our fair countrywomen to the use of an old article possessing the preposterous quality of being as good as new, if washed in a little cold water.

REVIEWS.

THE NORTH AMERICAN GRAPES. *By Dr. George Engelmann.*—Perhaps the first plant noticed on the continent of North America, even before Columbus and before the Pilgrims,—a plant identified with the discovery of America itself,—was the Grape-vine; it gave to the country the name *Vineland*, and later, to a part of it, that of *Martha's Vineyard*. And yet the grape-vines, many forms of which grow from Canada to the Rio Grande, and from Virginia to California, are among the least thoroughly known plants of North America. Linnaeus knew two species; and that sagacious observer, the founder of the flora of North America, Michaux, added three more. These five species are acknowledged to this day as the principal forms found in the regions between the Atlantic and the Mississippi. But even in their native haunts they vary to such a degree, that both scientific and non-scientific observers have never felt satisfied about them. Rafinesque, about fifty years ago, undertook to describe and classify these forms; but, with his loose observation and lax scientific conscience, he, as usual, instead of becoming a guide, created inextricable confusion. Le Conte, long after him, did little to unravel the entanglement; and since their efforts to distinguish imaginary species, the tendency has rather been to combine what were formerly considered, even by conscientious authors, as distinct species.

I have long devoted much attention to the grape-vines of my home (St. Louis), but have become satisfied that no satisfactory solution can be obtained without the coöperation of the friends of botany throughout the whole country; so I ask from their love and zeal for our science, and from the general interest which this particular investigation now commands, their friendly coöperation.

In order to arrive at satisfactory conclusions, it is necessary to study all the forms which present themselves, in all their bearings, and under

the different conditions in which they are found. Specimens ought to be collected in flower, exhibiting also the young shoots and developing leaves, and, *from the same stock*, in fruit, if fruit they bear; and ripe seed should be obtained; the soil, the locality, the accompanying plants, and the size of the vine ought to be noted, the difference in shape and size of the leaves of young shoots and of bearing branches is often important; the exact time of flowering, and the period of maturity are interesting data; the size, color, and taste of the fruit, the presence or absence of the bloom on the ripe berry; the usual number of seeds in each, the conditions and color of the pulp,—all are points not to be neglected. It is not expected that species can be founded on the variations in all these characters, but it is important that the limits of variation of the different species should be defined; and that can only be done by exact study of as many forms as possible in all their bearings. Thus far I have only seen vines with perfect and with staminate flowers; purely pistillate ones may perhaps be discovered by acute observers.

The species now known to botanists in the territory of the United States, but several of them not sufficiently defined, are the following:

1. *Grape-vines with large Berries.*

1. *VITIS VULPINA* Linn., the *Southern Fox-grape*, or *Muscadine*, with several cultivated varieties, such as the *Scuppernon*, etc.

2. *VITIS LABRUSCA* Linn., the *North-eastern Fox-grape*, with numerous cultivated varieties, such as the *Catawba*, *Isabella*, *Concord*, *Hartford Prolific*, etc.

3. *VITIS CANDICANS* Engelm., the *Mustang grape* of Texas.

2. *Grape-vines with smaller Berries.*

4. *VITIS CARIBÆA* DC., of Southern Florida and the West Indies.

5. *VITIS CALIFORNICA* Benth., confined to California.

6. *VITIS ÆSTIVALIS* Michx., the *Summer grape* of the Middle and the Southern States, with numerous varieties, of which var. *monticola* (*V. monticola* Buckley) of Texas approaches No. 5, and var. *canescens* of the Mississippi Valley approaches No. 7; several cultivated varieties, such as *Norton's Virginia Seedling*, and the *Cynthiana* grape, are among our best wine-grapes.

7. *VITIS CORDIFOLIA* Michx., the sour *Winter* or *Chicken-grape* of the Eastern States, and its variety *foetida* of the Mississippi Valley, often 4–6 inches in diameter, climbing the highest trees, and bearing fetidly aromatic berries. No variety I believe in cultivation.

8. *VITIS RIPARIA* Michx., the *River-bank grape*, throughout the United States to the Mississippi; the only grape in East Canada, where it extends sixty miles north of Quebec (Brunet); a valuable grape in cultivation, under the name of *Clinton*, *Taylor*, and *Delaware* grapes. An early native variety ripens its sweet berries early in July about St. Louis.

9. *VITIS ARIZONICA*, n. sp., and as yet doubtful plant, of Arizona, with small leaves, and middle-sized berries.

10. *VITIS RUPESTRIS* Scheele, the *Bush-grape* or (in Missouri) *Sand-grape*, which extends from Missouri to Texas.

It is worth noting that all those of the forms enumerated above, which I had an opportunity of raising from seed, exhibit marked differences already in the seedling plant a few months old. During my absence in Europe for the next twelve months, Professor A. Gray, of Cambridge, has kindly offered his assistance in communicating with those who wish to assist me, and letters directed to me, at St. Louis, Missouri, will be forwarded to me. — I. G. E.

THE CORALS AND STARFISHES OF BRAZIL.* — But little is known of the shores of Brazil, and until their discovery by Professor Hartt, so graphically related by him in the *NATURALIST*, was it ever known that there were reefs of coral on that coast. Professor Verrill here gives us in a connected form a view of the radiate animals of Brazil, with notes on those of Lower California. He remarks that

"It appears somewhat remarkable that while the Echinoderms, with few exceptions, are common West Indian or Florida species, the corals are nearly all, so far as known, peculiar to the coast of Brazil. This is, however, in accordance with similar facts observed in the Pacific and Indian Ocean, where the greater part of the tropical Echinoderms have a vast range, in some cases even from the Hawaiian Islands to the coast of Africa, while the corals are much more local, all the principal groups of islands having many peculiar forms. This is, perhaps, due to the much longer time during which the young of most Echinoderms remain in the free, swimming condition, liable to be carried great distances by currents."

THE BOOK OF EVERGREENS. By *Josiah Hoopes*. — The author has furnished, under the above modest title, a book than which none could be more needed. Good books are always in demand, and therefore the first paragraph of the preface might have been omitted, or at least so modified, as to be a statement of the author's *claims* to teach concerning the Coniferæ, rather than an *excuse* for "intruding his views and experiences upon the public."

Mr. Hoopes has long been favorably known as a successful arboriculturist, and as especially successful in growing the Coniferæ. He has, moreover, been a pupil of the late, lamented Dr. Darlington, to whose memory the volume is dedicated. With these guarantees as to his competency, and with the superadded one of enthusiasm in his "specialité" we might reasonably expect something good. The reading proved our expectations to be well founded.

Up to this time no popular work on the subject, and suited to our climate, has been accessible to the American public. We should be unjust to the author, as he is to himself, if we limited its merit to merely supplying a popular want. It is more; for on its pages we find much that is valuable to the man of science, along with some smaller matters, which are open to his criticism. The views of classification expressed may or may not accord with those of Parlatore and Engelmann. Yet all the con-

*Notice of the Corals and Echinoderms collected by Professor C. F. Hartt, at the Abrolhos Reefs, Province of Bahia, Brazil, 1867. 8vo, pp. 20. Notice of a Collection of Echinoderms, from La Paz, Lower California, with Descriptions of a New Genus. By A. E. Verrill. 8vo, pp. 6. April, 1868. With a plate. (From the Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.)